(CLASSIFICATION)

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S/S # 8124416

DATE SEP 25 1981

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. Richard V. Allen
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: President Reagan FROM: Mr. Steven R. Simon

DATE: July 22, 1981 SUBJECT: Israeli raid on Iraqi nuclear reactor.

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: August 18, 1981 NSC # 036598

_____ THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

_____ A draft reply is attached

_____ A draft reply will be forwarded

_____ A translation is attached

__XX__ An information copy of a direct reply is attached

_____ We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below

_____ Other

81 SEP 25 PM 0:14

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY WRB , DATE 1-16-84
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☒ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTION

REMARKS:

PA/PC/CM:HHeilmeis:dj
X21394 9-23-81
NEA: 9/81
PM:9/81, ACDA: 9/81
PA: J. O'Neil

for L. Paul Bremer, III
Executive Secretary

Unclassified
(CLASSIFICATION)

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

25 SEP 1981

Dear Mr. Simon:

I am replying to your message of July 24 to President Reagan concerning the Israeli air attack into Iraq. I hope the following review of U.S. actions and policies is helpful in understanding our position. I regret that you did not receive a reply to your earlier letter and that this response has been so long delayed.

As you know, on June 7, Israeli Air Force units attacked the nuclear reactor under construction in Tuwaitha, Iraq. On June 8, we condemned the Israeli air strike, noting that the unprecedented character of this action would seriously add to the already tense situation in the area and complicate our efforts to peacefully resolve problems there. The United States was not consulted in any way about any phase of the operation and was not informed of it in advance.

On June 10, the President suspended the scheduled delivery of four F-16 aircraft to Israel pending further study of the Israeli action and consultations with Congress. That same day, pursuant to Section 3 of the Arms Export Control Act, Secretary Haig sent letters to the Chairmen of the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees indicating that a substantial violation of the 1952 U.S.-Israel Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement may have occurred. After the required report to Congress, the Act leaves any further determination or action to the President's discretion. Congress may also take further action.

On June 19, the United States voted for U.N. Security Council Resolution 487 condemning the Israeli attack, making clear our profound concern about the raid's impact on the peace and security of all the nations of the Middle East.

The July escalation of the cycle of violence on both sides of the Israel-Lebanon border, which included Israeli

Mr. Steven R. Simon,
3456 Lama Avenue,
Long Beach, California.

air attacks on Beirut and Palestinian rocket attacks on northern Israeli towns, was of great concern to us. Because of this general atmosphere of increased violence and tension in the region, the President continued the suspension of scheduled military aircraft deliveries to Israel, eventually including ten additional F-16's and two F-15's. We voted for U.N. Security Council Resolution 490, which called for an immediate end to all armed attacks, and we worked hard to end the cross-border violence.

The Administration conducted an intensive review of these events, including candid discussions with Israeli Prime Minister Begin and consultations with Congress. We are satisfied that the Government of Israel clearly understands the provisions of U.S. law that govern the use of U.S.-supplied military equipment. The review took into account events and trends in the Middle East, particularly the events in Lebanon leading to a cease-fire on July 24. This cease-fire is a positive element in the region, one which we hope will continue and lead to other steps toward peace. In view of the changed atmosphere in the region, and after the review's completion, President Reagan lifted the suspension of military aircraft deliveries to Israel.

In the case of the air attack on the Iraqi nuclear facility, we have carefully noted the Israeli and Iraqi positions. Israel contends that its action against Iraq was a necessary, legitimate act of self-defense because the Iraqi reactor was intended to produce weapons grade material to make atomic bombs. Israel also points out that there is a state of war between the two countries and contends that Iraq had made clear its intention to produce such a weapon for use against Israel.

Iraq, on the other hand, denies that its nuclear program has any application other than the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Iraq points out that it has ratified the Non-Proliferation Treaty and that its reactor and supply of enriched uranium were subject to International Atomic Energy Agency safeguard controls.

The United States does not believe that force can provide the answer to international disputes. Our condemnation of Israel's action was intended to clearly express this view. At the same time, as Ambassador Kirkpatrick made clear before the U.N. Security Council, we remain fully committed to the security and well-being of Israel and to the

friendship between our two countries. The United States will continue to do all in its power to achieve a just and lasting peace for all the peoples of the Middle East.

Sincerely,

/s/

Francis Terry McNamara
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs

124416

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

AUGUST 18, 1981

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 036598

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JULY 22, 1981

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. STEVEN R. SIMON
3456 LAMA AVENUE
LONG BEACH CA 90808

SUBJECT: WRITER IS UPSET BECAUSE HE HAS NOT RECEIVED AN ANSWER TO PREVIOUS LETTER ABOUT ISRAELI RAID ON IRAQ'S NUCLEAR REACTOR

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL — IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN [illegible] CORRESPONDENCE, CONTROL SHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 33, THE WHITE HOUSE

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT:
LESLIE SORG
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

July 22, 1981

Steven R. Simon
3456 Lama Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90808

8124416

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20510

036598

Dear Mr. President:

Exactly one month ago today, I wrote to you concerning my opinion of the Israeli raid on Iraq's nuclear reactor. I distinctly ~~requested~~ a written response. I realize you are very busy and have many Presidential tasks, but I am sure that you have a secretary who could have written me with an acknowledgement of your receiving my letter, if not a letter written by you.

I am pleased with your actions on the Israel-Iraq crisis, as I am with most of the other Presidential acts that you have made, but I would have liked a letter from you--it's not too late.

Thank you very much.

Very sincerely yours,

Steven R. Simon